

Germany Fine, America Better, Quaggin Says

By TOM RISCHÉ
Germany is great, but America is better. That's the opinion of Tom Quaggin, Torrance High School student who made the trip to Wurzburg, Germany, last summer as part of the American Field Service and International Scholarship program. He was the only Torrance student to make the trip this summer. It is part of an exchange program which also brings foreign students to Torrance.

Although he had a good time touring Europe and meeting the citizens of other countries, he wouldn't trade it for life in America. However, as a result of his European visit, he does plan to take some schooling in Germany, probably law.

Lived With Widow
While in Germany, Quaggin lived with Mrs. Maria Classen, a widow who owned a furniture store. The furniture store was on the bottom story of the building, the general manager and his family occupied the next two stories. Quaggin's foster mother lived on the next story, Quaggin occupied a whole story, and his foster brothers had the top story.

Quaggin's introduction to German was a 10-day course aboard the boat which carried him and 696 other exchange students to Europe. Despite his unfamiliarity with the language, he had little difficulty. He had taken French and sometimes managed to converse in these when German and English failed.

His biggest surprise was trying to order wine in German and finding a fish dinner set before him.

Hamburgers Strange
Hamburgers, or their German equivalents were eaten only by the poorer classes, Quaggin said. When he decided to fix them for his foster family one night, he had to travel to one of the poor parts of town, since hamburger is not sold in the better markets.

He fixed the hamburgers, complete with cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, and bun, and served them to his foster family, who eyed the concoction with suspicion. Then, they took the sandwich apart and ate all the ingredients separately. "They never did find out how a hamburger tasted," Quaggin lamented.

Germans Marry Late
Unlike many American youngsters, German youngsters usually do not marry in their late teens. In fact, Quaggin said, the family of a 26-year-old friend of his was in considerable doubt as to whether he should get married so young.

Movies are popular forms of entertainment in Wurzburg, but theaters are so crowded, that reservation generally must be made a day beforehand, he said. TV comes on for two hours a day, but few people have sets.

Another popular entertainment is taking week end hikes, he reported.

During his three-month stay Quaggin visited many parts of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium and France. His family also had homes in Berlin and Karrison, Austria.

Varied Opinions
The family he stayed with like Americans, although he found many Germans who do not. Some even blamed excessive rain throughout Germany to the effects of the atom bomb. Eisenhower, however, is widely respected, he said.

"I was depressed by the destruction in Wurzburg, since 90 per cent of Wurzburg was leveled and 60 per cent of its people killed during the war," Quaggin declared. "I was impressed by the great start they have made in rebuilding."

Quaggin's foster family plans to visit this country next year and will stay with Quaggin's family, Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Roberts, 1609 Amapola Ave. German Study Planned
After taking two years at El

Camino, Quaggin hopes to return to Germany to study law at one of the Wurzburg or Heidelberg universities, staying with his newly-found foster family.
At Torrance High School, Quaggin is president of the Boys' League, and a member of Tartar Knights, Student Council, TNT staff, and Thespians. He was chosen from a large group of applicants to make the trip on the basis of his leadership and scholarship record.



SOUVENIRS . . . Tom Quaggin, who spent the summer in Germany as an exchange student, shows off a couple of his souvenirs—a beer stein and a large cuckoo clock from the Black Forest.

Local High School Pupils Give Edge to GOP in Poll

If Torrance's voters follow the lead of their children, President Eisenhower may carry normally Democratic Torrance again this year, as he did in 1952.

Young pollsters, members of the staff of the Torrance News Torch, student paper, queried Torrance High School students and found that 664, or 58.7 per cent, would vote for the GOP, while 450, or 41.3 per cent, would support the Democrats if they could vote.

However, asked if the party of their choice was the same as that of their parents, 661 students said that it was, while 230 differed from the views of their parents.

Seniors Democratic
According to the poll, 735 seniors would vote Democratic, while the juniors, sophomores and freshmen gave a majority to the Republicans. By classes, the vote was:

Seniors — GOP, 68; Democrats, 76.
Juniors — GOP, 150; Democrats, 105.
Sophomores — GOP, 138; Democrats, 106.
Freshmen — GOP, 277; Democrats, 166.

In another question, the students said that they thought the vote should be extended to 18-year-olds as Kentucky and Georgia have done. The ayes won by a considerable majority—yes, 586; no, 211; and no opinion, 138.

A majority of the students—533—had no opinion on whether the Electoral College system should be changed to divide a state's electoral vote proportionally, according to the popular vote a candidate received in a state. Of those who voted, 261 approved the change, while 221 disapproved of it.

Age Level Set High
On an educational level, most of the students felt that school should be compulsory at least to the ages of 17 or 18. They were asked, "Up to what age do you think a boy or girl should attend school full time?" The replies were as follows:
Until 18—335 votes.
Until 17—300 votes.
Until 16—268 votes.



BEST SOLDIER . . . WAC Pvt. Yvonne L. Gavin, daughter of Mrs. Robbie P. Mantooth, 2419 Gramercy Ave., was named September "Soldier of the Month" at Ft. Mason, Calif., headquarters of the Bay Area Army Terminal Center. Here, she receives her award from Col. Thomas R. W. Skinner, commanding officer.

Local Woman Best Soldier

A Torrance woman has won the coveted "Soldier of the Month" title at Fort Mason, Calif.

"You are a credit to the Women's Army Corps," Private Yvonne Gavin, daughter of Mrs. Robbie P. Mantooth, of 2419 Gramercy Ave., was told as she received the award for September from Col. Thomas R. W. Skinner, commander of the Bay Area Army Terminal Center.

Selected as tops among enlisted personnel at Fort Mason for her "exemplary conduct," she received a certificate of achievement, a check for \$10 and a three-day pass.

A 1946 graduate of Torrance High School, Private Gavin was employed in Abilene, Tex., as a telephone sales supervisor before enlisting in the Army last March. Her present assignment is as a clerk in the terminal center's passenger traffic division.

The new soldier of the month is equally outstanding in her favorite off-duty occupation, bowling. She holds the 1953 Texas Women's Singles championship, and in 1954 competition chalked up that state's high individual series score of 604 and the high individual game of 249. At Fort Mason, she bowls with the Non-Commissioned Officers' Club team.

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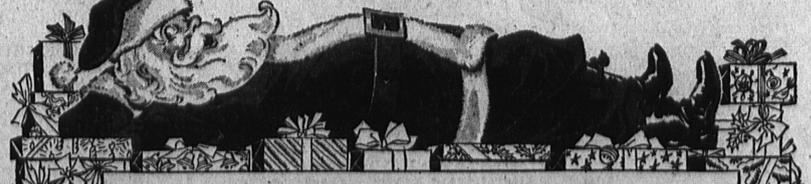
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